

Message Text

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TAGS: GATT, AORG

SUBJECT: 1977 GATT BUDGET ESTIMATES

REF: STATE 186082

FOLLOWING RESPONSES KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

A. TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE IN 1977 IS NOT REPEAT NOT LOWER THAN IN 1976. TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE APPEARS UNDER THREE DIFFERENT BUDGET HEADINGS: PART I, SECTION 1(1), PAGE 13; PART I, SECTION 2(1), PAGE 14; AND PART II, SECTION 1(II), PAGE 22. TOTAL FOR THESE THREE HEADING IS 1,265,865 FRANCS FOR 1977, VERSUS 1,264,000 FRANCS FOR 1976. THE ITEM VARIES FROM HEADING TO HEADING BECAUSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTING THE CHARGES AMONG THE THREE DIFFERENT HEADINGS.

B. SECRETARIAT SAYS JUSTIFICATION FOR REGRADING WAS INCOMPLETELY WRITTEN. INCUMBENT, WHO IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN THE DIVISION, HAS BEEN P.3 FOR TEN YEARS, AND HAS BEEN CARRYING P.4-LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE BEFORE MTN BEGAN. HE IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE P.4-LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER THE MTN. SECRETARIAT'S JOB WILL BECOME MORE COMPLEX WHEN MTN HAS FINISHED, AS MTN IS TACKLING TRADE COMPLEXITIES SUCH AS NONTARIFF BARRIERS, PREFERENCES, NEW CODES, ETC. WHICH DID NOT EMERGE FROM PREVIOUS NEGOTIATING ROUNDS. THEREFORE, TEMPORARY REGRADING HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS CASE, AND SECRETARIAT

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IS VERY MUCH PREPARED TO PUSH FOR THE REGRADING IRRE-

SPECTIVE OF TP CONSIDERATIONS. MTN DEL IS FAMILIAR WITH INCUMBENT'S WORK, SHARES SECRETARIAT'S FAVORABLE OPINION OF HIM, AND AGREES THAT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION WORK LIKELY TO CONTINUE HEAVY AFTER MTN.

C. THESE ITEMS ARE LOWER BECAUSE SECRETARIAT HAS MADE INTERNAL JUDGMENT THAT STAFF TURNOVER IN 1977 IS EXPECTED TO BE LOWER. IN ADDITION, IF MTN SHOULD END IN 1977, REGULAR VACANCIES APPEARING MAY BE FILLED BY INCUMBENTS NOW IN TEMPORARY MTN-RELATED POSITIONS, THUS REDUCING END-OF-TENURE PAYMENTS. HOWEVER, FIRST CONSIDERATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT.

D. LARGEST PART OF THIS INCREASE IS DUE TO ICSC PARTICIPATION COSTS, WHICH HAVE RISEN FROM 31,000 TO 50,000 FRANCS. ALSO, THE COST FOR UN LANGUAGE COURSES HAS INCREASED AND MORE GATT PEOPLE ARE BEING SENT TO THEM. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN LESSER INCREASES IN JOINT MEDICAL AND CCAQ COSTS.

E. CASUAL LABOR ITEM INVOLVES PAYMENT TO CLEANING FIRM, WHICH BRINGS MOST OF ITS OWN MATERIALS. THE SEPARATE GATT ITEM IS FOR SMALLER ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL USE AROUND THE OFFICES AND IS NOT RELATED TO CLEANING OF BUILDING. MAINTENANCE TIEM "FOR GATT PREMISES" MEANS PRESENT GATT PREMISES (PARTICULARLY THE TTWO OFFICE ANNEXES) PLUS MAINTENANCE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TYPEWRITERS AND REPRODUCTION MACHINES WHICH WILL GO ON TO NEW PREMISES. FOR THE NEW BUILDING, AS IT WILL HAVE JUST BEEN RENOVATED, UNUSUALLY LOW INITIAL MAINTENANCE COSTS ARE EXPECTED.

F. 1976 REPEAT 76 BUDGETING FOR THIS ITEM HAS TURNED OUT TO BE UNREALISTICALLY LOW. SECRETARIAT NOW ESTIMATES THAT 27,800 FRANCS WILL BE REQUIRED. THUS INCREASE FOR 1977 BUDGET WILL ONLY BE FROM 27,800 TO 30,000 FRANCS; THIS IS IN LINE WITH EXPENDITURE INCREASES SINCE 1974.

G. DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM GIM II SYSTEM IS, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTED IN REFTTEL, A VERY RECENT DEVELOPMENT. THIS HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE L/4370 WAS PRINTED. THEREFORE, ASSUMING THERE ARE NO DISENGAGEMENT COSTS (AND SECRETARIAT IS NOW LOOKING INTO THIS), ITEM WILL DISAPPEAR. ABRAMS

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